

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02152 021157Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----021204Z 032654 /15
O 021133Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2502

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2152

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ARN - DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US
SUBJECT: KHADDAM VISIT

REF: STATE 071616

1. MET WITH KHADDAM MORNING APRIL 2. HE CONFIRMS HE
IN CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR KABBANI ABOUT VISIT AND THAT
MRS. KHADDAM WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO WASHINGTON. HE BELIEVES
IT WOULD BE MORE RESTFUL TO STAY WITH THE KABBANIS AND
ASKED IF THAT WOULD CAUSE ANY DIFFICULTIES ON SECURITY
ARRANGEMENTS. SAID I THOUGHT SECURITY WOULD BE
MANAGEABLE BUT WOULD CHECK WITH DEPARTMENT AND ADVISE.

2. WE ALSO DISCUSSED COMPLICATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH
TIMING OF PROPOSED MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS. HE ASKED
WHETHER, IF HE RETURNS TO ORIGINAL PLAN OF ARRIVING ON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, THIS WOULD FACILITATE BOTH HE AND
HIS WIFE HAVING COMPLETE EXAMINATIONS. (MRS. KHADDAM
DOES WISH SEE DERMATOLOGIST AS WELL.) REPLIED I THOUGHT
THIS WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM SINCE IT WOULD ALLOW ALL
LAB WORK TO BE DONE ON THURSDAY AND LEAVE SATURDAY FREE
FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DOCTORS. THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM
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WOULD TAKE PLACE AS IT NOW STANDS ON FRIDAY. HE ASKED
WHETHER FACT THE OFFICIAL MEETINGS DID NOT START FOR A
FULL DAY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL WOULD CAUSE ANY PROTOCOL
PROBLEMS. ASSURED HIM WE WERE NOT PROTOCOLAIRE AND HE
NEED HAVE NO CONCERN ON THIS ACCOUNT.

3. HE LEAVES NEXT TUESDAY FOR THE NACC IN NEW DELHI, RETURN-

ING AFTERNOON APRIL 11. WHEN I EXPLAINED I WILL HAVE LEFT DAMASCUS EARLY THAT MORNING, HE SAID HE WOULD ADVISE CHARGE HIS FINAL DECISION ON ARRIVAL TIME BY EVENING APRIL 11 BUT HE NOW INCLINED BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE WEDNESDAY FROM PARIS, RETURNING TO PARIS BY FLIGHT DEPARTING WASHINGTON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

4. COMMENT: SUGGEST YOU NONETHELESS CONTINUE EFFORTS ARRANGE FOR LAB EXAMS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 22, IN EVENT HE UNABLE TO ARRIVE ON WEDNESDAY.

5. OPENING DID NOT ARISE TO DISCUSS KABBANI LUNCHEON. I THINK AS SCHEDULE SHAPING UP, WITH THE KHADDAMS BEING KABBANI'S HOUSEGUESTS, FONMIN WILL MAKE NO FUSS OVER THE LUNCHEON. AS I TOLD CAROLAN, KHADDAM'S STATEMENT RE "NOT EVEN A CUP OF TEA," WAS A LITERAL QUOTE. THIS IS A REMINDER THAT KHADDAM DOES NOT ALWAYS INTEND HIS QUOTES TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY. MEANWHILE, I WOULD LET KABBANI CONTINUE MAKE HIS OWN CONTACTS WITH THE MINISTER ABOUT THE LUNCHEON. (FYI: HIS GRIP WITH KABBANI'S HOSPITALITY DATES FROM RECEPTION KABBANI GAVE FOR HIM THE NIGHT HE ARRIVED WASHINGTON IN JUNE 1975. KHADDAM WAS TOTALLY NON COMPOS HAVING JUST CROSSED THE ATLANTIC.)

6. ADVISE ON SECURITY ASPECTS HIS STAYING WITH KABBANI.

7. MAY I ASSUME THAT IF KHADDAMS STAY WITH KABBANI USG WILL COVER HOTEL EXPENSES OF THE TWO SYRIAN OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING HIM? SARG PAID FOR OFFICIAL USG PARTY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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EIGHT ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY VANCE HERE IN FEBRUARY. FINALLY, IN ABSENCE OF SPECIFICS ABOUT POTENTIAL MEDICAL EXPENSES, HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS WITH FONMIN. SUGGEST YOU ADVISE KABBANI SINCE I ASSUME BILL WOULD BE SENT TO SYRIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS, MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC02152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770114-0535
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770496/aaaadfob.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ce8a8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 71616
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2921300
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHADDAM VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ce8a8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009